

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 051626-5008

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| In re Application of:       | ) |                            |
|                             | ) |                            |
| Hitoshi KOMURO et al.       | ) |                            |
|                             | ) |                            |
| Application No.: Unassigned | ) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
|                             | ) |                            |
| Filed: February 23, 2004    | ) | Examiner: Unassigned       |

For: CIRCULATING BODY AND FIXING DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents  
**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and is in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 11-24457. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and do not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art."

If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**



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Robert J. Goodell Reg. No. 41,040

Date: February 23, 2004

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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | Attorney Docket No.<br>051626-5008  | Serial No.<br>Unassigned         |
| PTO Form 1449   | Applicants<br>Hitoshi KOMURO et al. | Filing Date<br>February 23, 2004 |
|   |                                     | Group<br>Unassigned              |

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

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|--|-----------------|
| Examiner   | Date Considered |
| Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                 |